

# Birds of prey at PPL

## Bald Eagle *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*

- With wingspans reaching up to 8 feet wide, they are among North America's largest birds of prey.
- It's not until they are 5 years old that they get the white head and tail feathers for which they are known.
- They typically use the same nest year after year, building on it each season. Some nests can get as big as 10 feet wide and 6 feet deep.
- Their population plummeted in the 1960s, but they have made a strong comeback. They are currently considered threatened in Pennsylvania. As of the end of 2007, there were over 135 nesting pairs in at least 41 counties in Pennsylvania.



## Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*

- These falcons live on all continents except Antarctica.
- Their favorite prey is the feral pigeon, which is why they often nest in cities.
- They nest chiefly in scrapes or depressions on cliffs and also on the ledges of tall buildings in cities.
- Most peregrines are highly migratory. In fact their scientific name – *Falco peregrinus* – means wandering falcon.
- They are the world's fastest bird, reaching in excess of 200 mph in dives called "stoops."
- Peregrines are considered endangered in Pennsylvania. In 2007, there were 24 known nests in Pennsylvania, four of which are at PPL facilities, including the Montour power plant and the Tower Building in downtown Allentown.



## Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

- The osprey is classified as threatened within Pennsylvania.
- Their wingspans can be as large as 6 feet wide.
- These birds are also known as the fish hawk because their favorite food is fish.
- They are found along major waterways on every continent except Antarctica.
- When feeding, they carry fish to the nest headfirst to be as aerodynamic as possible.
- Osprey have been nesting at PPL's Lake Wallenpaupack since 1998, and PPL's Martins Creek plant since 1988.

